



STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM

Rhode Island Department of Administration

Quarterly Progress Report

Number 399

January—March 2001

Population Distribution in Rhode Island

Several months ago, the Census Bureau announced that Rhode Island's 2000 population had increased to 1,048,319. More recently, details of how that population is distributed over Rhode Island's five counties and thirty-nine cities and towns became available.

Bristol County

Bristol County's population increase of 1,789 is found in two of its three communities; Barrington experienced a gain of 970 (6.1%) and Bristol grew by 844 (3.9%). The Town of Warren recorded a population loss of 25 (-0.2%). A loss of employment opportunities in manufacturing may have contributed to population movement out of Warren over the past decade.

Kent County

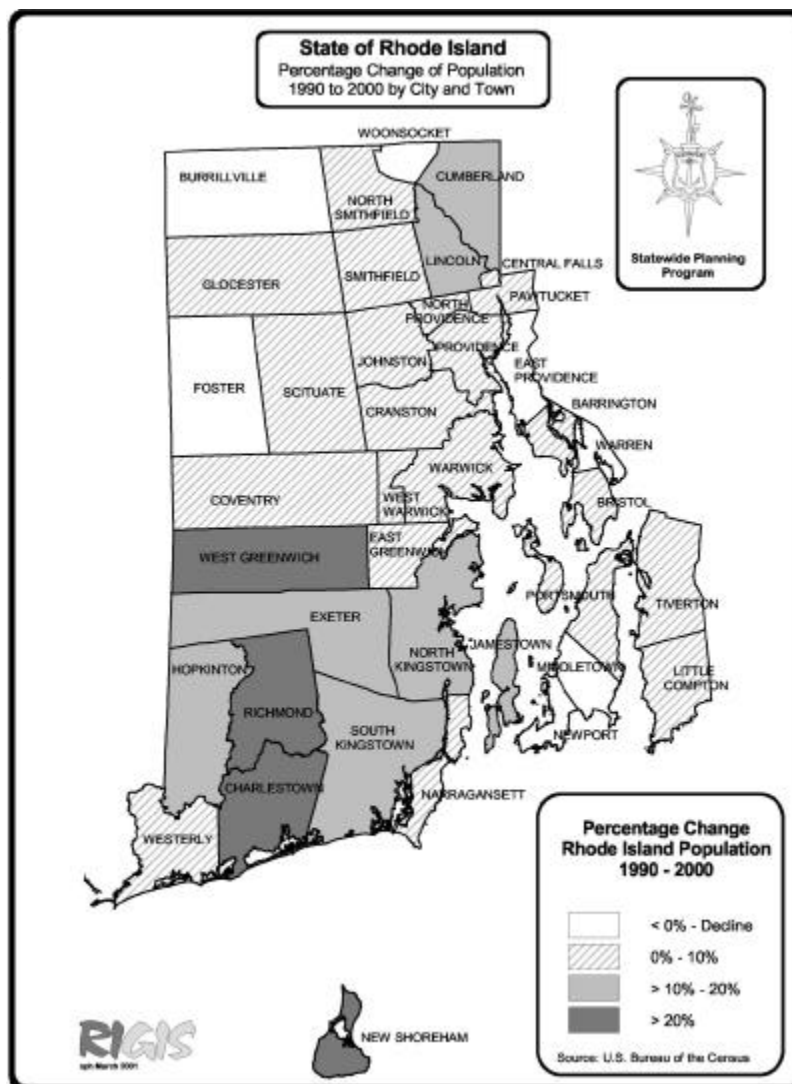
Kent County's population growth of 5,955 (3.7%) is largely confined to three towns: Coventry (2,585), East Greenwich (1,083), and West Greenwich (1,593). The City of Warwick and the Town of West Warwick remained relatively stable, experiencing minimal increases of 381 and 313 respectively.

Newport County

Newport County experienced a population loss of 1,761 (-2.0%). Downsizing at the Newport Naval Education and Training Center over the past decade had a direct effect on population counts in this area. The City of Newport and the Town of Middletown had a combined population loss of 3,878 (-8.1%).

Jamestown, Little Compton, Portsmouth, and Tiverton experienced a mix of low and moderate increases resulting in 2,117 additional inhabitants.

(cont'd page 3)



Section 42-11-10 of the *General Laws of Rhode Island* calls for "a comprehensive strategic state planning process and the preparation, maintenance, and implementation of plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state." The State Planning Council provides policy guidance and coordinates these activities. The statewide planning staff is part of the Department of Administration.

**POPULATION OF RHODE ISLAND
CITY AND TOWN, BY COUNTY
1990 & 2000**

Cities and Towns, by County	1990 Population	2000 Population	Numeric Change	Percentage Change
Barrington	15,849	16,819	970	6.1%
Bristol	21,625	22,469	844	3.9%
Warren	11,385	11,360	-25	-0.2%
Bristol County	48,859	50,648	1,789	3.7%
Coventry	31,083	33,668	2,585	8.3%
East Greenwich	11,865	12,948	1,083	9.1%
Warwick	85,427	85,808	381	0.4%
West Warwick	29,268	29,581	313	1.1%
West Greenwich	3,492	5,085	1,593	45.6%
Kent County	161,135	167,090	5,955	3.7%
Jamestown	4,999	5,622	623	12.5%
Little Compton	3,339	3,593	254	7.6%
Middletown	19,460	17,334	-2,126	-10.9%
Newport	28,227	26,475	-1,752	-6.2%
Portsmouth	16,857	17,149	292	1.7%
Tiverton	14,312	15,260	948	6.6%
Newport County	87,194	85,433	-1,761	-2.0%
Burrillville	16,230	15,796	-434	-2.7%
Central Falls	17,637	18,928	1,291	7.3%
Cranston	76,060	79,269	3,209	4.2%
Cumberland	29,038	31,840	2,802	9.6%
East Providence	50,380	48,688	-1,692	-3.4%
Foster	4,316	4,274	-42	-1.0%
Glocester	9,227	9,948	721	7.8%
Johnston	26,542	28,195	1,653	6.2%
Lincoln	18,045	20,898	2,853	15.8%
North Providence	32,090	32,411	321	1.0%
North Smithfield	10,497	10,618	121	1.2%
Pawtucket	72,644	72,958	314	0.4%
Providence	160,728	173,618	12,890	8.0%
Scituate	9,796	10,324	528	5.4%
Smithfield	19,163	20,613	1,450	7.6%
Woonsocket	43,877	43,224	-653	-1.5%
Providence County	596,270	621,602	25,332	4.2%
Charlestown	6,478	7,859	1,381	21.3%
Exeter	5,461	6,045	584	10.7%
Hopkinton	6,873	7,836	963	14.0%
Narragansett	14,985	16,361	1,376	9.2%
New Shoreham	836	1,010	174	20.8%
North Kingstown	23,786	26,326	2,540	10.7%
Richmond	5,351	7,222	1,871	35.0%
South Kingstown	24,631	27,921	3,290	13.4%
Westerly	21,605	22,966	1,361	6.3%
Washington County	110,006	123,546	13,540	12.3%
State Total	1,003,464	1,048,319	44,855	4.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
RI Statewide Planning

CENSUS BUREAU RELEASES RHODE ISLAND CENSUS 2000 DATA

The Census Bureau has begun releasing data from the millennium census. Information made available on March 29, 2001 contains summary data required for legislative redistricting. These files present counts by race and ethnicity and are delineated for persons 18 years of age and older. See Statewide Planning's website www.planning.state.ri.us for

Clip and Save

Providence County

The increase in Providence County is responsible for 56 percent of the state's total growth. Providence County, which is made up of sixteen cities and towns, added 25,332 residents.

Almost half of Providence County's growth is attributable to the Capitol City of Providence, which experienced an increase of 12,890 residents.

After several decades of population decline, Census 2000 is the second consecutive decennial census to show population increases in the urban core communities of Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls.

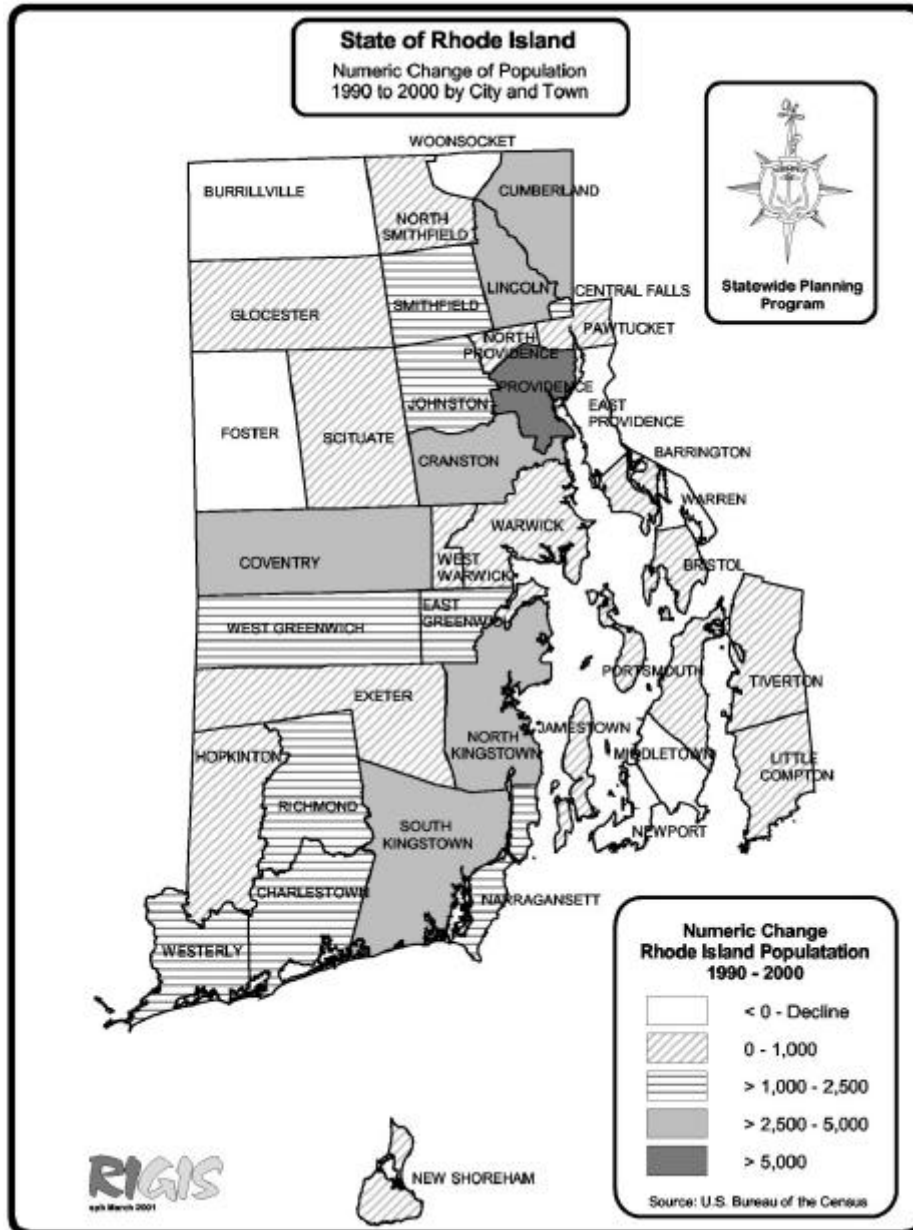
The City of Woonsocket first experienced population decline in 1940. It rebounded in 1950, but continued to lose population in 1960 and thereafter. Census 2000 continues that pattern, with a 1.5 percent loss over the past decade and an overall 8.2 percent population decline since 1960.

Burrillville, East Providence, and Foster experienced relatively minor population loss over the past decade, while the remaining nine communities of Providence County grew by a combined total of 13,658, ranging from a low of 1.0 percent in North Providence to 15.8 percent in Lincoln.

Washington County

Largely rural Washington County experienced the greatest regional percentage increase (12.3%) in population, but their numerical increase is still only one-half that of Providence County.

Every one of the nine communities that make up Washington County recorded increases in population, ranging all the way from 3,290 reported in South Kingstown to a low of 174 in New Shoreham.



Comprehensive Land Use and

Task - 2400 Comprehensive Plans

Processed responses from a number of state agencies concerning comprehensive plan amendments in Tiverton (TIV 00-1) and Coventry (COV 00-1) and revisions to the Glocester, Providence, Smithfield, and Woonsocket Comprehensive Plans.

Approved comprehensive plans amendments to the North Kingstown (NK 95-1a) and Tiverton (TIV 00-1) Comprehensive Plans.

Received comprehensive plan amendment proposals from Narragansett (NAR 00-1) and North Kingstown (NK 00-3) for State review.

Processed requests for extension of the deadline for the submission of the five-year update from Middletown, Newport, North Kingstown, North Smithfield, Scituate, South Kingstown, and Westerly.

Task 2401 - Local Planning Assistance

Assisted training consultants working for Grow Smart RI to construct the training outline for the core training for municipal boards and commissions. The group has now completed the basic outline and is in the process of compiling materials for the programs.

The Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust, in conjunction with the R.I. Association of School Committees and the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns presented a seminar for local government officials. Staff prepared and presented a seminar session entitled "Planning and Zoning – Roles and Responsibilities of Boards and Councils in Community Development".

As requested by the Legislative Liaison of the Department of Administration, reviewed legislation, prepared position papers and gave testimony on legislation relating to comprehensive planning, planning and zoning.

— *Derry Riding & Mike Ahnrud*

Task 1001—Intergovernmental Review

Thirty projects and/or proposals were received and reviewed this quarter.

A new Review Coordinator for the Intergovernmental Review Process has been assigned. Patricia Chorney is now responsible for managing reviews. (222-5781)

Statewide Planning began reviewing SRF applications for a combination intergovernmental review and State Guide Plan conformance beginning in 1991. The review process for State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs has been significantly altered. Statewide Planning and the Department of Environmental Management have agreed that the intergovernmental review process will now be conducted within DEM. Statewide Planning will continue to review referred applications for consistency to the water resource-related State Guide Plan elements. A more recent program, the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which is administered by the Department of Health, will also have project applications reviewed for State Guide Plan consistency.

— *Kevin Nelson*

State Revolving Loan Fund Program

Staff completed State Guide Plan consistency reviews and submitted comments on applications for State Revolving Loan Fund Program requests for wastewater treatment facility projects to the Department of Environmental Management for the following sewer districts this quarter: Narragansett Bay Commission (2 projects); and Warwick Sewer Authority.

Staff completed State Guide Plan consistency reviews and submitted comments on applications for State Revolving Loan Fund Program requests for drinking water system improvements to the Department of Health for the following water suppliers this quarter: Pascoag Fire District; and Providence Water Supply Board

- *Nancy Hess*

Transportation Planning



— Nancy Hess

Task 1899 – Support

At a 2001 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application workshop, staff advised the Rhode Island CDBG staff and local communities and applicants on how to determine and establish both State Guide Plan and local comprehensive plan consistency for 2001 CDBG application submissions.

Staff is working with DEM and the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission on conducting a land use build out analysis for the 11 communities on the Rhode Island side of the corridor. This will be done in close coordination with Massachusetts, where a GIS-based analysis has been conducted throughout the state. The end product will be a regional corridor analysis of future land use that will be presented at a joint state and corridor summit later this year.

Task 1805 – Rivers Council Support

Staff assisted the Rivers Council in developing a solicitation for Local Watershed Council designations. The Council received and has begun reviewing applications for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed, the Pawtuxet River Watershed, and the Kickemuit River Watershed.

— Kevin Nelson

Task 1809 - Drought Management Plan

Staff continued work on a long-term drought management plan for the State in cooperation with the Water Resources Board. Once completed, the drought management plan will be incorporated into the State Guide Plan as an amendment.

Staff also helped the Water Resources Board prepare an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EMPACT (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) grant application for federal funding. The EMPACT grant proposal is for a two-year innovative project to create an advanced communication system to develop a drought alert network (DAN) for the State. The DAN project would create integrated databases, Internet maps and web pages with real time water resource data. This data would be supplied to the WRB along with other state agencies and local water suppliers to better recognize when drought conditions are occurring. The DAN will be used to provide alerts to major waters users, water suppliers and to the public on drought conditions. Review of the EMPACT grant application is underway by the EPA and a response on the acceptance of the grant for funding is expected next quarter.

Task 2701 - Transportation Plan

Work began on the triennial update of the 1998 Plan. Following review of the work plan by the TAC, staff from Statewide Planning, RIDOT and RIPTA collaborated to develop a public outreach effort designed to accomplish several objectives:

1. To report back to citizens and elected officials the outcomes of the Transportation Improvement Program process conducted last year.
2. To provide state officials an opportunity to listen to the current transportation system concerns of the public and local officials; and to review, and seek public input on the vision and major principles of the current ground transportation plan.

Four public workshops were planned and conducted on a regional basis. Each included exhibits by state agencies on the current status of active transportation projects and activities, planned projects, and the outcomes of the TIP process; a brief presentation on the current ground transportation plan, and opportunity for an open discussion with the Director of RIDOT and other state agency staff.

Comprehensive Planning and



In preparation for the regional workshops, staff compiled reports summarizing TIP proposals and projects by various Federal funding categories. In addition, staff prepared maps of all Study and Development proposal locations in the current TIP.

A special effort to learn about the transportation needs of minority and disadvantaged communities also began with a series of neighborhood-based, focus group meetings conducted in Providence with assistance from The Providence Plan. The Providence effort could be a model for future efforts to increase involvement of minority and disadvantaged populations in transportation planning elsewhere in the state.

A second phase of seeking broad public outreach for the ground transportation plan update was begun in March, with the TAC forming itself into four "issue subcommittees". From a tentative list of issues, the TAC approved Environmental Justice/Transportation Equity, Intermodal Transportation, Travel Corridors, and Transportation and Land Use as four topics to be addressed in the update of the ground transportation plan. Each issue Subcommittee was charged with exploring the current data and status of this aspect of transportation in Rhode Island.

— George Johnson

Task 2702 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Reports on the outcome of the TIP process were prepared for four regions in the state. Each report includes a brief narrative on the number of project proposals submitted during the solicitation conducted last winter, reports the number (and percentage) of the region's total submissions that were included in the TIP. Results of the TIP process are as follows:

TIP Region	Proposals Received	Proposals Included in TIP	Percent included
Blackstone	36	17	47%
East Bay	26	14	54%
Mid-State	76	45	59%
South County	51	30	58%
Statewide	189	106	56%

Counts exclude multi-region & statewide projects.

— Vinnie Flood

Task 2703 - Continuing Transportation Planning

The first Rhode Island Walkable Communities Conference took place on March 23rd at Brown University, bringing nearly 200 state and municipal officials, transportation planning and engineering staffs, citizen advocates, and others interested in pedestrian safety and walkability together for a day-long program to increase awareness of pedestrian issues and means to encourage more walkable, pedestrian safe communities. Statewide staff participated in the planning and coordination of the conference over the past six months. The outcomes of the conference, together with RIDOT's Pedestrian Safety Plan are to be incorporated into the long range ground transportation plan.

— Vinny Flood,

Task 2705 - Highway Planning

Staff began an update on the RI Intelligent Transportation System Architecture Plan with the Statewide ITS Committee. Review of the ITS Service and Strategic Deployment Plan for 2001 was concluded.

— Michael Moan

Task 2708 --- Greenways Planning

The Greenways Council met to review the status of greenways related activities of member agencies

Transportation Planning



and groups. The joint application of the Council and the RI State Council on the Arts for a National Millennium Trails Arts Project Grant was completed and submitted to the National Association of State Councils on the Arts. At the staff level, efforts continued to secure funding necessary to update and reprint the state Greenways Map. The Department of Environmental Management's (DEM's) Trails Advisory Committee agreed to support the use of Federal Recreational Trails funding to supplement funding previously committed to the reprint.

— George W. Johnson

1706 - Technology Transfer (T2) Center

January marked the 10th anniversary of the Rhode Island Technology Transfer Center. The Center began in January 1991 as part of the Rural Technical Assistance Program and is now located in the Transportation Planning section.

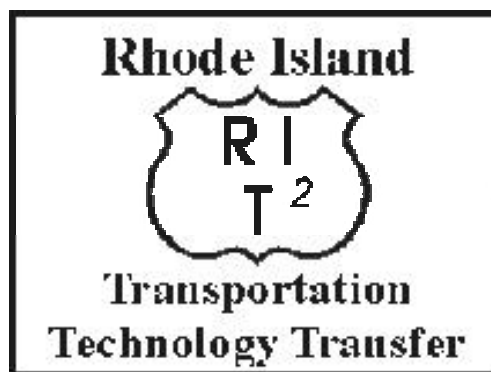
The Winter 2001 issue of the RIT2 Center newsletter, LINKS & NODES was distributed this quarter with a lead article on LED traffic signals. The 1999 RI T2 Center annual report was included as an insert.

Staff attended the initial planning meeting for the 2002 Annual National LTAP Meeting which will be held in Burlington, Vermont in July 2002.

Staff met with members of the Construction Career Day group to discuss and plan for the program. Several high schools have expressed interest in sending students to the program, and several unions, private companies, schools and state agencies will have both hands on and static displays. The Construction Career Day will be held May 23rd at the Rhode Island National Guard/Rhode Island State Police facility in Scituate.

Staff met with several members of the construction community and RIDOT to plan ceremonies and presentations for National Workzone Awareness Week April 9-12, 2001

Workshops offered this quarter included Flagger Certification, Winter Operations, and Air Brakes. A Management Tips workshop was presented at the First Annual Convention of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns. The Center co-sponsored the EXPO 2001. Over 1200 individuals representing most Rhode Island cities and towns attended. The Center also sponsored a satellite broadcast of the ATSSA Millennium MUTCD Conference Program. — Walter Slocomb



Economic Development



Mill building revitalization is the subject of a new Technical Paper.
Photo by Niverio Carvalho

Task 2101 — Economic Development Strategy

As part of the staff's responsibilities under the Showcase State Initiative, revisions were proposed to the *Economic Development Policies and Plan* to introduce objectives and policies related to hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness. These were approved by the Technical Committee at their February meeting, and forwarded to the State Planning Council to authorize a public hearing.

Staff finalized and published Technical Paper No. 150, *Mill Building Reuse: A Survey of Current Mill Conditions in Rhode Island and the Market for Mill Space*. The paper was authored by a Boston University intern, Niverio Carvalho, who conducted the necessary research last summer.

Work on the marine industries cluster also intensified, with staff offering assistance to the R.I. Senate Policy Office and to the Bay Company, an outgrowth of the East Bay Economic Initiative.

— Bruce Vild

Task 2106: Energy Plan

Revisions were completed on several sections of the *Rhode Island Energy Plan*. Staff had its second meeting with members of the State Energy Office at which the revisions were reviewed. Revisions are necessary in light of changes in the market due to electric industry deregulation and new natural gas pipelines, among other developments. This continues to be a collaborative effort between Statewide Planning and the Energy Office.

— Joyce Karger

Task 1803 - Energy Facility Siting

Staff conformance reviews were completed regarding the Providence Gas Company's application for a liquefied natural gas transfer station in Middletown. Staff is preparing an advisory opinion regarding the project's socioeconomic impact on the town and state as well as its consistency with the State Guide Plan.

— Joyce Karger

Task 1899 – Support

Staff participated in two teleconferences and a meeting in Washington, D.C., of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee's Natural Gas Subcommittee. The Subcommittee drafted a report on natural gas resources onshore and offshore, and made several recommendations to ensure the availability of this important fuel in the future. The report will be presented to the Policy Committee at its May, 2001 meeting, and then forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

— Bruce Vild

Recent Publications

Technical Paper 150 — *Mill Building Reuse: A Survey of Current Mill Conditions and the Market*

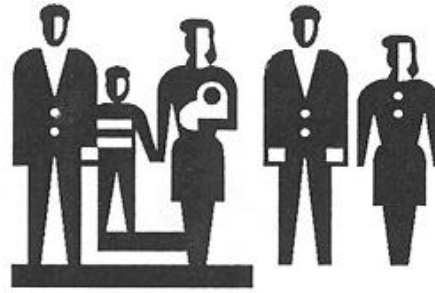
Human Services

Task 1807 - Children's Cabinet Support

Staff interviewed each of the twelve Cabinet Officer members and their senior staffs to discuss ways to revitalize the Cabinet and to restructure monthly meetings. The objective is to maximize the usefulness of the meetings by aligning them with interdepartmental priorities. Staff has recommended a reorganized schedule of quarterly Cabinet meetings assigned to designated lead agencies. Each session will be dedicated to a particular cabinet goal. Interim monthly Cabinet meetings would address the activities of the major inter-agency or public-private groups directly related to the Children's Cabinet. Each group would be obligated to provide an annual status report of their group's work.

Task 2302 - Housing

Staff has been meeting with the coordinators of the Housing Resources Commission to share information with the Community Development and Policy & Planning Subcommittees. Staff participated in the application review of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.



Task 2303 - Census

Staff participated in the First Annual Convention and Exposition sponsored by the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns. Issues pertaining to Census products and the Rhode Island State Data Center were discussed with registrants.

Staff presented the Governor with Census 2000 briefing materials developed by Statewide Planning, and discussed salient details and implications of the newly released information.

The Statewide Planning Program website was updated and expanded to deliver Rhode Island specific data from Census 2000. State population counts by race and ethnicity, and of persons 18 and older were developed into city and town tables, charts, and profiles. Data released by the Census Bureau and incorporated into the Statewide Planning website provided the first real look at Rhode Island's increasing diversity.

Staff responded to media requests for information and analysis of the newly released Census 2000 data. Several radio broadcasts and newspaper articles highlighting Rhode Island's changing population resulted.

— Mark G. Brown



Planning Information and Support

Task 2901 RI Geographic Information System

Preliminary data based on 1:5000 scale photography was made available to selected RIGIS participants for review and comment. These data sets included roads and surface hydrography with feature name annotation, and vector shoreline data for Narragansett Bay and coastal areas.

The digital orthophoto data set at the resampled 4-foot pixel level was mosaiced and compressed with MrSID compression software for packaging as smaller volume digital imagery for users with needs to view or display the data from a single CDROM or on a more compact website. There is a decrease in resolution when using these data as opposed to the original 2-foot pixel data.

The digitizing of municipal comprehensive plan future land use maps is being done to support the Land Use Planning Section at Statewide Planning. The project was completed during the quarter, although final consolidation into regional (county) and statewide data sets still remains to be done. The wide variety of media type, source format and content that was present in various municipal plans necessitated the use of several innovative input methods in consolidating the information into homogenous data sets. These included assimilation from computer aided drafting files supplied by consultants, manipulation of several different GIS software files, both manual tablet and heads-up (on screen) trace digitizing, scanning of paper and Mylar source documents to render source maps into a useable GIS digital format.

Several new or updated data sets are being developed at Statewide Planning. Updates of the State's major electrical transmission line and natural gas transmission pipeline infrastructure will be incorporated into an upcoming mapping project for a Quonset Point impact study conducted by the RI Economic Policy Council.

The protected open space lands data set is being updated for several towns for use in growth management studies. A demonstration project for the RIDOA Information Technology Office is using information on the location of state owned buildings and their proximity to existing or proposed fiber optic communications networks. The latter two projects are being completed with the assistance of interns from Rhode Island College.

A RIGIS Executive Committee meeting was held during the reporting period to consider adopting the Federal Geographic Information Council's metadata standard, replacing the RIGIS database of the RIGIS 1989 USDA/SCS soils data set with the USDA/NRCS Ssurgo soils data, and assimilating better elevation information into the database.

Many data requests for the 1997 orthophotography series on CDROM were filled during the reporting period. Individual data sets for each municipality in the state showing road centerline with name annotation features based on the 1:5000 orthophotos were clipped to city and town boundary from the statewide data. These data were reduced to ESRI shape and export file format and provided to the Environmental Data Center at URI. They have also been placed on the RIGIS ftp/website (www.edc.uri.edu/rigis) and are now available to GIS users for free electronic download.

Assistance on implementation and use of GIS technology was provided to the towns of Glocester and Scituate, the Office of the Rhode Island Attorney General, the Rhode Island State Police, and the RI Department of Health. The RIGIS Coordinator and the GIS Analyst participated in the RI League of Cities and Towns Conference in January.

— John Stachelhaus & Sean Healy

GRAPHICS

During this report period, work was performed for the Building Commissioner's Office, Division of Human Resources, Office of Municipal Affairs, and Library Services.

— Mansuet Giusti III

Aerial photos and maps provided by the graphics room:

572 photos/maps were provided to 111 state and local agencies and private sector individuals.

State Planning Council Actions

Regular meetings were held on January 11, and March 8, 2001. The February meeting was cancelled. Council actions included:

- Adopting revised project scoring criteria for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- Receiving a briefing on Census 2000, the update of the Ground Transportation Plan, a status report on the Transportation Improvement Program and a report on the Governor's Growth Planning Council.

Technical Committee Actions

Regular meetings were held on January 5, February 2, and March 2, 2001. Significant Committee actions included:

- Receiving a briefing on Census 2000, the update of the Ground Transportation Plan, and a status report on the Transportation Improvement Program.
- Recommending amendment of the Economic Development Policies and Plan element of the State Guide Plan to incorporate findings of the Showcase State Initiative.
- Hearing a presentation by RIDOT on the development of a transportation project.
- Considering an amendment to the Functional Classification System.
- Providing commentary on a draft technical paper inventorying of local zoning ordinances and land development and subdivision regulations.

Transportation Advisory Committee Activities

The Transportation Advisory Committee held two meetings during the quarter in order to:

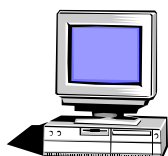
- Adopt a 2001 meeting schedule, with regular monthly meetings set for the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m, at various locations around the state. The full meeting schedule is available on Statewide Planning Program's website at www.planning.state.ri.us, or by calling 222-1233.
- Begin plans for an update of the Ground Transportation Plan. Regional public workshops were scheduled in four locations around the state (see Task 2701).
- Recommend to the State Planning Council that an amendment requested by RIPTA to the FY 2001-2002 TIP's Transit Program be approved.
- Authorize RIPTA as the designated recipient for most categories of Federal Transit Administration funds to Rhode Island.

Growth Planning Council

The Governor's Growth Planning Council is charged with examining the impacts of the state's current development patterns, evaluating the effect of state programs on sustainable development, recommending means to encourage sustainable development and fostering partnerships to build local capacity to manage growth.

Statewide Planning is providing staff support to the Council. The Council had their fourth meeting in March. Staff made presentations on initiatives such as the establishment of a Planner's Institute to provide training for local officials. The Council adopted a staff recommendation to appoint a subgroup to examine methods to support compact development in rural areas with infrastructure. This was one of the recommendations of a draft inventory and analysis of state programs impacting growth in Rhode Island. Staff also presented a draft outline of the Council's first annual report to the Governor, which is due in June.

Quarterly Progress Report
Statewide Planning Program
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
www.planning.state.ri.us



WEB SITE UPDATE

(<http://www.planning.state.ri.us>)

Work on the Statewide Planning Program's website this quarter included:

- posting Children's Cabinet, Technical Committee, State Planning Council, Transportation Advisory Committee, Growth Planning Council, and Rivers Council Agendas.
- update and redesign of Planning website to meet ADA compliance standards.
- Creation of the RI Census 2000 website.
- posting of the TP 150 Mill Building Reuse: A survey of current mill conditions and the market for mill space.
- posting of Forest Plan as PDF file to meet ADA compliance standards.
- creation of statewide planning photo gallery.
- update and redesign of the Greenways Council web site to meet ADA compliance standards.

Web support was also provided to the Information Resource Management Board web site.

— Kim A. Gelfuso

For information on the SPP website contact Kim A. Gelfuso at 222-5764 or kimgo@lori.state.ri.us

STAFF NEWS

George Johnson, Supervising Planner of the Transportation Planning Section, has been promoted to Assistant Chief. In his new position, George will be responsible for the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Planning unit of the agency. He recently marked his twenty-five year anniversary with Statewide Planning and has extensive experience in various aspects of land use and recreation planning as well in the transportation area. Mr. Johnson will add supervision of the Comprehensive Plans function to this impressive resume.

Among his many professional achievements, George has been recognized as Planner of the Year by his Rhode Island colleagues in the American Planning Association.

Mark Brown has spent much of the last six months commuting to Washington, DC to assist in Census 2000. In his capacity as Rhode Island's State Data Center Coordinator, Mark has provided first hand insight to insure the accuracy of the state demographic counts. His efforts have been recognized by the Census Bureau with numerous awards and citations. Rhode Island has benefited greatly from Mark's efforts in refining counts to better reflect actual growth and changes in the state's composition.